

There have been two other sightings of individual hirundines identified as cliff swallows, probably of this species, elsewhere in Ethiopia: one near Gibe over grassland not far from the Gibe river gorge on 18 October 1993 (JDA), the other from near Jimma on 24 March 1994 (J. Harjula, pers. comm.).

Observers visiting Ethiopia should certainly be alert for cliff swallows in any apparently suitable habitat: gorges and cliffs with nearby water and grassland, particularly in the central and northern parts of the Rift Valley and apparently usually with other hirundines.

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An isolated population of the Olive-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia chloropygia* in Ethiopia

The Tepi–Mizan Teferi forests of South-West Ethiopia are poorly known ornithologically. During a visit there from 12–16 February 1993, I found sunbirds with olive bellies in two localities near Tepi (7°12N, 35°25E). There was a male in secondary forest growth at c. 1200 m on 14 February near Gezmarete (7°07N, 35°26E) along the Tepi–Mizan road. Later that day there was a possible male at Tepi airstrip (7°12N, 35°25E) at c. 1250 m. On 16 February there was a male with a female close to the site of the bird seen two days earlier. These birds were eventually identified unquestionably as Olive-bellied Sunbirds *Nectarinia chloropygia*.

In appearance the males were reminiscent of Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds *N. mediocris*, with a distinctive olive/yellow-olive belly, but they had the straighter bill typical of *N. chloropygia* and the upper tail-coverts were green rather than metallic blue. The female had noticeable streaking on the chest. The first bird was in secondary growth at the forest edge, and the others in neglected cultivation with rank grasses, immediately adjacent on one side to the airstrip and on the other to degraded forest/secondary forest growth. The habitat and altitude at which these birds occurred match the habitat preferences (forest edges, moist bushland, secondary growth) and known altitude preferences indicated in Britton *et al.* (1980), Lewis & Pomeroy (1988) and Williams & Arnott (1980) for *N. chloropygia*.

Although *N. mediocris* could occur in Ethiopia, it is typically a species of higher elevation than *N. chloropygia*, being found mainly above 1800 m in its known range in Kenya, though it does wander to lower levels. *N. chloropygia* typically occurs only between 1000 and 1750 m in Kenya. So far *N. chloropygia* is the only olive-bellied sunbird known to occur in Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971), whence there is only one other confirmed record: a male collected in 1901 near Tepi by Neumann (1905).

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Dr J. S. Ash comments:

This rediscovery of the Olive-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia chloropygia* in South-West Ethiopia is of much interest. It is described as a very poorly known resident in the West Highlands by Urban & Brown (1971), but its inclusion in the avifauna of the country actually rests on a single confirmed male specimen collected at Datschabassa, Binescho (Kaffa), on 22 April 1901 (Neumann 1905). This became the type for a new subspecies *N. c. bineschensis*, which is regarded by White (1963) as being doubtfully distinct from *N. c. orphogaster* of southern Sudan and further south.

According to Neumann (1902), Binescho lies along the track from Shewa Gimirra (7°00'N, 35°50'E) to Shekho (= Sciaco) (7°03'N, 35°29'E). On my old map, at a point where I judged Binescho should lie, the name Biencio has been written in pencil—possibly by a previous Italian owner of the map who had travelled in that area. This lies at 7°02'N, 35°39'E, and if it is not Neumann's site it must be within a few kilometres of it and within the Ethiopian Mapping Scheme (EMS) square 80D. It is probably within 24 and 30 km from Atkins' two sites near Gezmet and Tepi airstrip in EMS 80C. There are two other mentions of this species in Ethiopia: Beals (1970) refers to a pair nesting in July in *Euphorbia*–*Acacia* woodland at 9 km south of Langanano (c. 7°27'N, 38°43'E) but he does not provide details of identification; and furthermore there have been no further records of the species in this, the most bird-watched area of Ethiopia, so the record should perhaps only be regarded as uncertain. Bolton (1973) mentions an uncertain observation in 1969 in EMS square 118B to the west of Lake Stephanie.

The existing certain records of this species from a restricted area add another species to the list of those having similarly local distribution elsewhere in Africa (e.g., Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* (de Castro & de Castro 1990), Yellow-throated Leaf-love *Chlorocichla flavicollis* (Ash 1973)). The Ethiopian Olive-bellied

Sunbird population, according to present knowledge, is isolated from the nearest population in Sudan (Nikolaus 1987) by 700 km, and in Kenya (Lewis & Pomeroy 1989) by 650 km.

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African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* at Jadini, Kenya coast

On 17 October 1993 at around 15:30, while walking down a well trodden track near Nomads Beach Bar in the Jadini Forest on the southern Kenya coast (4°19S, 39°34E), I came across an adult African Pitta *Pitta angolensis*. After watching the bird for 5 min, I left to fetch some more observers to share my sighting. On returning, we could not relocate the bird but, on playing a tape recording, it appeared from the undergrowth. We watched the bird well for a further 20 min in good light at a range of 3–8 m and made the following observations. The bird was immediately recognizable by its striking, colourful plumage. The back and mantle were dark green, contrasting sharply with a buff/yellow breast and a scarlet upper and lower belly. The sides of the head, nape and crown were black with a buff/yellow supercilium. The bill was heavy and the legs were set noticeably well back on the body. On playing the tape recording repeatedly, the bird came out on to the edge of the track, where it stood erect for several seconds before flying across, showing white patches on the primaries.